

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

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Number 18



This has been a wk of heated headlines anent the relative rosiness of Hollywood. Dispatches are full of sound and fury signifying personal press-agentry. The spectacle should be taken no more seriously than any other colossal contribution from the celluloid capital. Maybe there are Communists in Hollywood, but the halls of Congress aren't likely places to detect them. Investigators have lost their sense of perspective. Motion pictures comprise the largest non-manufacturing industry in our land. Since they must depend upon a *mass mkt.*, their output parallels mass thinking. Films such as the debated *Mission to Moscow* can be viewed only in the light of their time. Then we were at war. Russia was "our valiant ally." The average citizen who now refers to the collective Muscovite as "them bolshevik bastards" couldn't in those days find enough nice things to say of the soviet. As the *Hollywood Reporter* observed in a recent survey: "Hollywood, U S A and Anytown, U S A are remarkably alike." They *have* to be, else the citizen will find fare unpalatable. He can detect an off-note more quickly and more truly than can the House Committee on Un-American Activities. And he has a simpler method of dealing with the situation: he stays away from the show!

MAY WE *Quote* YOU ON THAT?

Jos M Dodge, pres of American Bankers Ass'n: "European reconstruction all too frequently is said to depend on the U S. It does not. It depends on Europe." 1-Q

Jas FORRESTAL, Sec'y of Defense: "American business does not want war and neither does American labor." 2-Q

Rep AUGUST H ANDRESEN, of Minn: "If we all eat more meat and poultry, farmers will slaughter more cattle and hogs and fowl, and thus there will be fewer of them to eat the grain. Pres Truman and Sec'y Anderson have it backwards." 3-Q

BROOKS EMINY, nat'l pres of Foreign Policy Ass'n: "The major dilemma of the age is how to make the transition from nat'l sovereignty concepts to those of world govt. Nat'l sovereignty, the nation state, is no longer capable of protecting the security of peoples owing it allegiance." 4-Q

Jas C PETRILLO, music czar, explaining ban on making of recordings: "You don't know of any ice mfg co that makes refrigerators, do you?" 5-Q

JOHN FOSTER DULLES, U S delegate to UN, asserting U S welcomed suggestions for changes to Marshall proposal: "We do not believe that any small group of men whether they sit in the White House or the Kremlin have a monopoly on wisdom." 6-Q

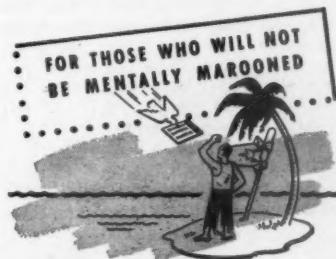
Mrs ROB'T A TAFT, wife of the Ohio sen: "They say we have a highboy govt—one bureau on top of another." 7-Q

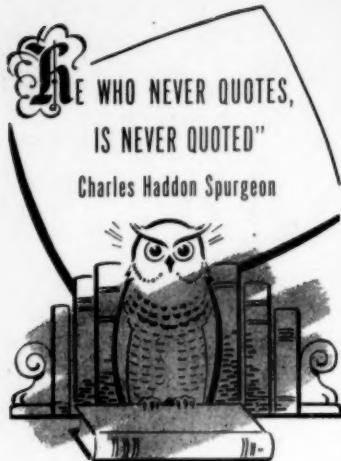
U S Chamber of Commerce: "The absorption by taxes of savings which otherwise would be invested in job-creating enterprises offers a formidable obstacle to continuance of production and employment at high level." 8-Q

Premier LAJOS DINNYES, of Hungary: "The Danubian countries want peace. We know what war and destruction mean — which lucky America does not." 9-Q

DAVID O SELZNICK, Hollywood film producer: "American motion pictures are the greatest ideological weapon against communism." 10-Q

Rep KARL E MUNDT, of S Dak: "We can't just feed Europeans' stomachs while the Russians force-feed their minds." 11-Q





ACTION—1

The easiest way to crush your laurels is to recline on them.—O A BATTISTA, *Everybody's Wkly.*

AGE—Youth—2

Our times, drunk with the achievement of mat'l progress, excel in a silly submission to youth and a still more foolish contempt of older age. We forget how many of the greatest achievements of mankind were accomplished by men past 50, while it was the Nazis who boasted that they had only young people among their ranks.—MAXIMILIAN BECK, "Against the Mechanization of Teaching," *School & Society*, 9-20-'47.

AMERICA—Responsibility—3

The New World has come of age, and her debt to a European past can never again outweigh her responsibility to an American future.—WM C ATKINSON, "The Idea of Latin America," *Fortnightly* (London), 8-'47.

APPLICATION—4

The explanation of triumph is all in the 1st syllable. — *Canadian Business.*

ATTITUDE—5

It is not so much the creams you slap on your face, nor the facial massage, nor the color of your make-up that keeps you attractive. It's your attitude toward life. If you're bored, you're old. — INA CLAIRE, *American Wkly.*

COMMUNISM—6

The reason that we stall is that Communism simply creates an in-

flamed area on old Mother Earth. It does not have a head on which we can operate. The doctors of diplomacy are studying the case and applying ointments. If they are successful, a head will develop somewhere in the inflamed area, and then they can ask the military surgeons to take over. How soon this inflammation will come to a head is hard to see. But be a good patient, world; we will soon operate. We might even use radio activity instead of a knife. It has been found to work faster and does a more complete job.—N L ENGELHARDT, Jr., "The Substitute for War," *Air Age Education News*, 9-'47.

CRITICISM—Self—7

A colored boy went into the neighborhood grocery store and said to the proprietor, "Please, Mr Jones, can I use your telephone?"

"Sure, Jim," the kindly grocer repl'd. "Go right ahead." He could not help overhearing the conversation.

"Hello," said Jim. "Is this Dr Brown? Well, say, Dr, does you-all need a boy to take care of your lawn this summer? . . . Oh, you has already got a boy? . . . Well, is he any good? Does he give satisfaction? . . . Oh, so he is all right? . . . Well, thank you, Dr."

The grocer said, "So you didn't get the job, Jim? That's too bad."

"Oh, I already got the job," Jim repl'd. "I was just checking up on myself."—RALPH C SMEDLEY, *Speech Evaluation*.

DIVORCE—8

A Calif college pres observes that the divorce rate of girls who major in home economics is far below that of college students generally. Proving, maybe, that in the long run skill in making batter is superior to skill at making patter.—*Chilton (Wis) Times Jnl.*

DRINK—Drinking—9

Under Burmese law, it is said that a wife may become head of the household if the husband drinks too freely. — *Richmond Times-Dispatch.*

EDUCATION—10

To teach about something, no matter how interesting and important, without good corresponding help in relating this knowledge to the serious business of life is an educational waste of the greatest

magnitude. This does not mean less emphasis upon knowledge of facts and theories, but it does mean relating those facts and theories to an understanding of life.—GERTRUDE WILSON, *Jnl of Deans of Women.*

EUROPE—Postwar—11

Rep John Taber, of N Y, said that in his tour of Europe he didn't see any starving people—that the Europeans seemed well fed. "That's like a man sitting comfortably in front of a window on the 10th floor," said a critic. "Another man leaps from the 40th floor of the same bldg. And as his body hurtles to sure death, his face is glimpsed by the man on the 10th floor—who later said, 'I saw him a few sec's ago. He looked fine.'" — LEONARD LYONS, syndicated col.

FAITH—12

Skepticism has not founded empires, established principles, or changed the world's heart. The great doers in history have always been men of faith.—E H CHAPIN, quoted in *Forbes*.

Of Rhyme & Reason

Who killed Price Control? "I," says Sen Wherry, "and I ain't even sorry. I killed Price Control."

Who saw him die? "I," says Sen Taft, and he laft and laft. "I saw him die."

Who'll make his shroud? "I," says the N A M. "I don't give a damn; I'll make his shroud."

Who is chief mourner? "I," says the consumer, "and Bud, that ain't rumor—I'm the chief mourner."—*Denver Post.* 13

GOD—Belief—14

Refusing to believe in God simply because God is not visible is every bit as illogical as refusing to believe in the electron, which is also invisible.—Dr PIERRE LECOMPTE du NOUy, French scientist and author, quoted in *American Wkly.*

HABIT—15

There is a community in a remote area of northern Greece where the men wear a peculiar cloth headgear said to date from the time of Alexander the Great. The story runs that in an hr of crisis Alexander was failed by the ancestors of this village. He sentenced the men to wear the head covering of their women, and the

women were given the warrior helmets. In spite of its shameful origin, the habit has not been broken.—DAN'L A POLING, "Habit-Master or Servant," *Think*, 9-'47.

HOME—16

Home is a spirit—a spirit that is embodied in family life. That spirit will take unto itself a form thru which it will find expression. The form changes as the spirit changes. Just what the form may be in the future it may not be possible to forecast, but regardless of the modifications that may take place in the changing society in which we live we may be sure that the home spirit will abide. It is as persistent as the human race. — *Cumberland Presbyterian*.

HUMAN NATURE—17

Rural life is said to give people's characters and personalities room to expand, nurtured by natural beauty and the goodhearted friendliness of simple neighbors. But I know of no country community that doesn't have its hermit, its miser, its wife-beater, its pathological shrew. — MARCIA DAVENPORT, author.

HUMOR—18

Something more than half a century ago, Richard Monckton Milnes wrote: "The sense of humor is the just balance of all the faculties of man, the best security against the pride of knowledge and the conceits of the imagination, the strongest inducement to submit with a wise and pious patience to the vicissitudes of human existence." What's more, it is a priceless possession that almost every one of us is absolutely certain he owns and is practically sure the other fellow lacks. The fact is far more amusing in theory than in application—*Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

IGNORANCE—19

There is a saying that what you don't know won't hurt you. That saying is not literally true. You may not know that you are being

infected by some disease germ but that does not prevent you from becoming sick as a result of the infection . . . You may not know the primary principles of conducting business, but that will not prevent you from becoming bankrupt . . . It does not pay to be ignorant, altho many people go thru life doing little to extend their mental horizons, and blaming all their misfortunes on someone else. Those who keep abreast of the times and make themselves experts in their lines and are self-reliant will have all the "good luck."—*Manufacturing Jeweler*.

Color

Few of us ever stop to realize how color serves to express our thoughts and moods.

Red is the symbol of courage, bloodshed, danger, disaster. We see red. We paint the town red. Red ink on a ledger means a loss.

Yellow—we despise. We refer to a scoundrel as a yellow dog. A person has a yellow streak. We resent yellow journalism.

Green is the jealous color. Green backs are currency. An inexperienced worker is a greenhorn.

Blue we use when down or glum. We feel blue. Blue music is mournful.

Purple seems to express rage or regality.

Black has many connotations—a black look, black despair, black mkt. There is blackmail and black list.

White is the honorable hue. It also connotes purity.

Color has fed the language of man with a rich and tasty diet. — *Pipefuls*, hm, State Mutual Life Assurance Co. 20

INVENTIONS—21

Nat'l Patent council says many great inventions have been created, and patented, by individuals outside scientific lab's. A minister invented photo film. The telephone

was invented by a teacher of the deaf, the telegraph by a portrait artist. Celluloid, the 1st plastic, was discovered and patented by a printer. A painter developed the torpedo, launched steam navigation. A piano maker developed the automatic sprinkler for fire protection. A dentist discovered anesthesia. Gov't in World War II spent over \$2 billion on research, created about 200 devices. During '46 alone the patent office held patentable about 24,000 inventions.—*Labor Union*.

LANGUAGE—22

In the words mortar, mother, elixir, motor, and murmur, the last syllable is pronounced the same way altho spelled with 5 different vowels.—*Manchester Guardian*.

MARRIAGE—23

Marriage is a community consisting of a master, a mistress and two slaves, making in all, two. — AMBROSE BIERCE, quoted in *Magazine Digest*.

NATURE—24

Grass is the forgiveness of Nature — her constant benefaction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and their carnage is forgotten . . . Forests decay, harvests perish; flowers vanish, but grass is immortal . . . It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet, should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world. — JOHN JAS INGALLS, *Country Gentleman*.

OBEDIENCE—25

Obedience is not the mark of a slave—it is an important quality in leadership. The great leaders of this world have not been their own masters; they arose and followed someone higher up, and thereby became the greater. Obedience is a gateway to power. Our physical health depends upon obeying the laws of our physical nature. Strength of character issues from obedience to the decree of conscience.—*Mutual Moments*.

LUCY HITTLE, Editor . . . WM STAINBROOK, Associate Editor

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ADVERTISING: Neon signs with letters that can be changed as often as new message is desired now are available. Magnets keep letters in position. (*Grit*)

COMMUNICATIONS: Jordaphone, designed for exec conferences, permits group telephone conversations without use of individual handsets. Remove phone from cradle, dial number, place phone in inset in Jordaphone cabinet, use cabinet microphone for talking. Party at other end has same equipment. Everybody in both rooms can hear amplified conversation perfectly. (*Tide*)

INVENTIONS: "Talking" typewriter, thru electrical contacts and a phonograph recorder and reproducer, will pronounce any letter struck. Can be used for teaching blind, or appl'd to adding machines, cash registers. (*Adv & Selling*)

OFFICE APPLIANCES: Eradicator typewriter ribbon has all the advantages of any other ribbon but will not smudge. Minor corrections can be made with ordinary eraser, whole words or sentences removed without marring paper. (*Canadian Business*)

PAINT: Series of interior "day-light" paint colors, designed to lessen fatigue in office and industrial workers, is now available. Colors comprise 4 off-shades of white scientifically formulated to reduce glare from direct and reflected light. (*Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co., Toledo*)

SAFETY DEVICES: Rifle and shotgun safety lock consists of felt-lined metal case which fits over trigger zones of gun. Device is secured by brass-plated lock and key. In the field when the trigger safe is left unlocked, gun is made ready for instant use simply by flick of release button. (*Sales Mgt*)

ORIGIN—"Hams"—26

Actors are believed to have been called "hams" because they used ham fat to remove makeup. — *Birmingham News-Age-Herald*.

PREJUDICE—27

What if every Negro in America were suddenly to turn white. What would happen to all the notions about Negroes, the idols on which are built race prejudice and race hatred? What would become of their presumed shiftlessness, their cowardice, their dishonesty, their stupidity, their body odor? Would they not merge with the shiftlessness, the cowardice, the dishonesty, the stupidity, and the body odor of the whites? Would they not then be subject to individual judgment in matters of abilities, energies, honesty, cleanliness, as are whites? How else could they be judged? —WALTER WHITE, "Why I Remain a Negro," *Sat Review of Literature*, 10-11-'47.

RATIONALIZATION—28

The mass forgiveness of high education's low average is reminiscent of the N Y fashion plate who, justifying a green hat and purple necktie on the same morning that his coat was red, scoffed, "It's all right to wear any combination so long as people know that you know better." —CURTIS ZAHN, "Notes on the Scientific Approach," *Education*, 9-'47.

REPARTEE—29

The next time someone says that you remind them of a two-year-old, ask if they are referring to an egg or a horse.

REPUTATION—30

A man's reputation is a blend of what his friends, enemies and acquaintances say behind his back.—*Reformatory Pillar*.

RUSSIA—World Affairs—31

To assume that they (the Soviets) are responsible for all the instability in the world is too flattering to them—and much too easy for us.—DAVID MITRANY, "Internat'l Consequences of Nat'l Planning," *Yale Review*, Autumn, '47.

SABBATH—Observance—32

Every day of the wk there is a Sunday or Sabbath in some other part of the world. Mon is the Greek Sabbath or Sunday; Tues—Persian; Wed—Assyrian; Thurs—Egyptian; Fri—Turkish; Sat—Jewish.—*Royal Neighbor*.

TAXES—33

A fan complained to Bing Crosby that he's making too few pictures.

"Well," said Bing, "if I make 1 movie a yr, at my \$100,000 contract figure, taxes leave me \$40,000. If I make 4 a yr, for \$400,000, as my contract permits, I also make about \$40,000. Which would YOU do?" —HARLAN MILLER, *Des Moines Register*.

I am a Rush Job . . . I belong to no age, for men have always hurried . . . I prod all human endeavor . . . Men believe me necessary—but falsely.

I rush today because I was not planned yesterday.

I demand excessive energy and concentration . . . I over-ride obstacles, but at great expense . . . I illustrate the old saying, "Haste makes waste."

My path is strewn with the evils of overtime, mistakes and disappointments . . . Accuracy and quality give way to speed.

Ruthlessly I rush on—

I am a Rush Job.—Bulletin appearing in office of Purchasing Division of the TVA. 34

VISION—35

It was the dictum of Joshua Reynolds that all the masses of light in pictures must always be of warm mellow color, and that the blue, the gray, the green colors be kept almost entirely out of the masses. And, since Reynolds was a great artist, his contemporaries deferred to this seemingly inflexible artistic law. That is, all but one artist.

One painter determined to execute a portrait whose predominant color should be blue. His fellow-artists protested, "It can't be done!"

But the artist, choosing the handsome son of a local iron founder as his model, proceeded to the task, and thereby created one of the world's greatest masterpieces. This is Gainsborough's marvelous "Blue Boy." — *Christian Science Monitor*.

WAR—Lesson—36

A veteran assured me recently that he had learned something from war. "I learned," he said, "how to live with men and to get along with them."

But that's a pretty expensive way to learn something you're taught in Sunday School. — HAL BOYLE, A.P.



Of Such Bricks As These

The prestige of ARNOLD J TOYNBEE's 6-vol Study of History is undisputed thruout the world and it has been acknowledged as an achievement without parallel in modern scholarship. D C SOMERVELL's 1-vol abridgment of this monumental work (Oxford Univ Press, \$5) is also an unparalleled achievement, for while reducing the work to 1/6th its original size, he has contrived to preserve its method, atmosphere, and for the most part, the author's very words. He has produced, for those who might lack time to read or money to buy the 6-vols, a concise version that is not a mere summary but the very essence of Mr TOYNBEE's own work.

Mr TOYNBEE conceived A Study of History as a 9-vol work. The completion of the final 3 vol's, however, was interrupted by the war and will not be forthcoming for several yrs.

It is, of course, true that diffusion is a method by which many techniques, aptitudes, institutions and ideas, from the Alphabet to Singer's sewing machines, have been communicated by one society to another. Diffusion acc'ts for the present ubiquity of the Far Eastern beverage tea, the Arabic beverage coffee, the Central American beverage cocoa, the Amazonian mat'l rubber, the Central American practice of smoking tobacco, the Sumerian practice of duodecimal reckoning, the so-called Arabic numerals which perhaps came originally from Hindustan—and so on. But the fact that the rifle attained its ubiquity thru diffusion from a single center where it was once, and once only, invented, is no proof that the bow and arrow attained its early ubiquity in the same manner.

But in any case civilizations are not, in spite of the perverted notion of modern materialism, built of such bricks as these; they are not built of sewing-machines and tobacco and rifles, nor even of alphabets and numerals. It is the easiest thing in the world for commerce to export a new Western technique. It is infinitely harder for a Western poet or saint to kindle in a non-Western soul the spiritual flame alight in his own. While giving diffusion its due, it is necessary to emphasize the part that has been played in human history by original creation, and we may remind ourselves that the spark or germ of original creation may burst into flame or flower in any manifestation of life in virtue of the principle of the uniformity of nature. We may at least go so far as to place the *onus probandi* [burden or obligation—editor] on the diffusion-

ists' shoulders in cases where it is an open question whether or not diffusion is entitled to claim credit for any particular human achievement.

"There can be little doubt," wrote E A Freeman, in *Comparative Politics*, in the yr 1873, "that many of the most essential inventions of civilized life have been invented over and over again, in distant times and countries, as different nations have reached those points of social advancement when those inventions were 1st needed. Thus, printing has been independently invented in China and in medieval Europe; and it is well known that a process essentially the same was in use in Ancient Rome, tho no one took the great step of applying to the reproduction of books the process which was familiarly used for various meaner purposes. What happened with printing we may believe also to have happened with writing. There can be no doubt from comparing the remains of the earliest bldgs in Egypt, Greece, Italy, the British Islands and the ruined cities of Central America, that the great inventions of the arch and the dome have been made more than once in the history of human art . . . Nor need we doubt that many of the simplest and most essential arts of civilized life—the use of the mill, the use of the bow, the taming of the horse, the hollowing out of the canoe—have been found out over and over again in distant times and places . . . So it is with political institutions also: The same institutions constantly appear very far from one another, simply because the circumstances which called for them have arisen in times and places very far from one another."



Hallowe'en

The Eve of All Hallows, or the Eve of the Festival of All Saints, falls on Oct 31st and is commonly known as Hallowe'en. Its origin lies back in the middle ages, in the days when belief in witches, goblins, evil spirits, and other mischief-making beings were much more common than today.

These evil beings were supposed to have special liberty to run riot before All Saint's Day, making the most of their opportunities, for on the morrow the holiness of All Saint's Day would keep them from putting in their appearance.

Children born on that night were believed to have the gift of seeing into the future. The most common superstitions have always concerned themselves with looking into the future.

A superstitious maiden walks down the cellar stairs backwards with a looking glass in one hand and a candle in the other, in the hopes of seeing her future husband in the looking glass . . .

A famous Scotch custom practiced at Hallowe'en was burning nuts in an open fire. By naming two nuts, placed side by side in the fire, after a certain lad and lass these superstitious people believed they could tell by whether the nuts burned quietly together or started from one another whether the courtship, and possible marriage, would run smoothly.

Another custom was this: Sneak out unnoticed to a beanstalk and walk around it three times. The last time around you will catch in your arms the appearance of your future wife or husband.

These strange and laughable customs of the old Scotch folks are interesting not only in themselves but also in the light they throw upon the "Tomfoolery" of our present-day Hallowe'en tricks. —Abridged from *Strathmorian*.

GOOD STORIES

You Can Use

In Chicago, Willard Motley, author of *Knock on Any Door*, took Henry Ehrlich, who was preparing lead article on the book for *Look Magazine*, on tour of Windy City slums. The prison warden allowed Ehrlich to sit down in the electric chair to try it out. Suddenly Ehrlich saw the warden go over to a switch and push a button. There was a whirring sound. "Just the ventilator," laughed the warden. But Ehrlich didn't hear him. He came to some min's later.—BENNETT CERF, *Sat Review of Literature*. a

" "

"I'm glad to find you as well as you are," said the old friend. "Your great wealth hasn't changed you."

"Well," repl'd the candid millionaire, "it has changed me in one thing. I'm now 'eccentric' where I used to be impolite, and 'delightfully witty' where I used to be rude."—*Watchman-Examiner*. b

" "

"Will the scar show, Doctor?" asked the young lady.

And the doctor repl'd, "That's entirely up to you." — *Louisville Courier-Jnl*. c

" "

Young Billy and Jane were in the yard playing. Jane had 2 apples—one beautiful, big, and red, and the other, small and green. Jane pondered, then bravely held out the apples with the standard invitation: "Take your choice."

Billy eyed the apples, then his greediness overcame him and he took the big red one. Jane's eyes blazed, she stamped her foot and admonished: "Put that back and take your choice."—*Mrs M A Lewis, Magazine Digest*. d

" "

Bldg contractors have their troubles nowadays, not the least of which is, the poor quality of lumber frequently offered them. A despairing contractor recently dispatched this telegram to the mill that had just sent him a carload of lumber:

"Knot holes rec'd, send the knots."—*Christian Science Monitor*. e

" "

Theo Hooker, the famous practical joker, held with the contention that people don't pay much att'n to what others say on many occasions.

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

JOSEPHUS HENRY
Scottsbluff (Neb) Star-Herald

A local firm, wanting an order canceled because of non-delivery of goods, was told: "Please be patient. This will be handled as promptly as possible, but there are 4,386 cancellations ahead of yours."

On a bet, he greeted his hostess at a party by saying, "I'm sorry to be late, but it took me longer to strangle my uncle than I expected."

"Yes, indeed," repl'd the lady, "so nice of you to have come."

His friends gasped and paid up.—*GATES HEBBARD, Gourmet*. f

" "

The 6-yr-old came home from school to tell the events of her school-day world. Among other things she breathlessly related that she had a long conversation with her teacher.

"Just what did you say," asked her mother.

The little lady proudly announced: "I said 'uh-huh' twice!"—*Jnl of Education*. g

" "

Probably nowhere in the world do women have sharper claws or sharper tongues than in movieland. Witness the remark of 2 filmites overheard in the Beverly Tropics as they discussed a mutual "friend."

Said the 1st: "She certainly has developed a big head."

Said the other: "She needs it to support her 2 faces!"—*ERSKINE JOHNSON, Motion Picture*. h

" "

A college prof and one of his students were discussing word meanings. They argued about "vision" and "sight," the prof contending that there was no difference, whereas the student insisted there was a distinct difference.

"Give me an example," said the prof.

"That's easy," said the student. "Last Saturday we were at a picnic

together. My young lady was a vision, but yours, sir, was a sight."—*E S JENSEN, Toastmaster*. i

" "

A southerner, after attending a banquet, was asked who had been present. With a reminiscent smile he repl'd: "An elegant gentleman from Va, a gentleman from Ky, a man from O, a bounder from Chicago, a fellow from N Y, and a galoot from Maine." — *Canning Trade*. j

" "

S Calif is loaded with "believers": cultists, mystics, fanatics who follow almost any kind of gospel. I met one such fellow, a timid little man, who swore to me that he wandered into a gambling joint and soon found himself risking whatever money he had brought with him. Down to 3 white chips, he walked over to a roulette layout and put them on number 6. At that moment he heard a hollow voice in his ear say: "Not 6—2." He looked around, saw nobody near him. Stunned, he moved his chips to number 2, and won. About to take his winnings, he again heard the voice say: "Don't move them, let them ride." Again 2 won. This time the little man made no move until the voice said, "Play 4." He complied, the wheel spun and number 2 won again. Whereupon the voice in the little man's ear said: "Aw, shucks!" — *S LEWIS, True*. k

" "

An actor, not so well known as he thought he was, rec'd an offer of a part in a new London show. Being on tour at the time, he repl'd by telegram: "Will accept double what you offer. Otherwise count me out."

Next day he rec'd a telegram which read, "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, OUT."—*Labor*. l

" "

The vicar's wife asked after the old man's granddaughter, and was told, "She's not at all well, ma'am; she's in the 'ospital. There's somethin' amiss wi' er throat, and they want to operaate on 'er. But I

Quotable

WISECRACKS

OF THE WEEK



dooan't want 'er to 'ave an operaation. One slip o' the knife and yer 'ead's off. And when yer 'eads off yer ain't no more good."—*Countryman*. (Great Britain) m

for the world and all that is in it, but thou standest where I am about to shoot."

The burglar didn't linger.—*Santa Fe Magazine*. p

Canine Tale

Perhaps the most important dog bite in history is described in Fox's *Book of Martyrs*, a colorful 16th-century history. The Earl of Wiltshire took his spaniel with him when he led the delegation sent by King Henry VIII of England to try and patch up the serious political differences then existing between that powerful monarch and the Vatican. Chances for a meeting of minds seemed good, and upon arrival the Earl and his embassy were rec'd in audience. As was the custom in those days, the Earl prostrated himself before the Holy Father to kiss his toe. The Pope thrust forth his foot for the homage. This action was misinterpreted by the spaniel, which had been watching matters narrowly.

Rushing to the aid of its master, the dog bit the Pope on the toe. The incensed Swiss Guard closed in and cut it to pieces. The enraged Wiltshire, his mind set against compromise by the incident, ret'd home and after his arrival Henry VIII began officially to separate England forever from the jurisdiction of Rome.—EUGENE KINKEAD, "Man's Ancient Companion," *Holiday*, 11-'47. n

Two girls were discussing a 3rd, with a normal am't of mewling, of course. "Well," yowled the 1st, "I see that Doris is getting her 3rd divorce." "I know," purred the 2nd girl. "Doris, so to speak, moves in the best triangles."—AL FREEMAN, quoted by FERMAN WILSON, *Miami Herald*. o

A gentle Quaker heard a strange noise in his house at night. He found a burglar busily at work. In plain sight of the visitor he walked quietly with his gun to the door and said:

"Friend, I would do thee no harm

The Englishman and his valet had been speeding westward across the U S for 4 days and 3 nights. The English, of course, are used to traveling about on a comparatively small island. Finally, wondering what his servant might be thinking about, the Englishman asked him point-blank what were his thoughts.

"I was thinking, sir, about the discovery of Hamerica," the valet ans'd. "Columbus didn't do such a wonderful thing, hafter all, when he found this country, did he, now, sir? Hafter hall's said and done, 'ow could 'e 'ave 'elped it?"—*Caper's Wkly*. q

He loved fishing so much that he thought everyone else ought to love it. In his zeal he took a novice with him on a fishing trip, furnishing all the tackle. The expert settled the novice in a likely spot and then began fishing not far away. In a little while the novice called:

"How much do those red and green things cost?"

"You mean the float?" the expert replied. "Oh, about a dime I guess."

"Well," said the novice, "I owe you a dime; mine has sunk."—*Texas Outlook*. r

One of the shortest letters on record was written by a N Y renter in response to his landlord's notice to vacate the house at once. Aware of his rights under state regulations, the renter repl'd:

"Sir:
"I remain,
"Yours truly."—*Woman*. s

"Sam," said Rastus, who was reading in the paper of a number of fatal accidents, "if you was to take your choice 'twixt one or t' other, which would you ruther be in, a collision or an explosion?"

"A collision."
"How come?" Rastus asked.
"Why man alive, if you's in a

Some persons will go right on buying bread and meat and depositing money in a savings acc't when they don't have a fur coat in the house.—*Banking*.

If he removes his hat in an elevator it means that he has: 1) good manners; 2) hair.—*Watchman-Examiner*.

PARENT: The kin you love to "touch."—*Family Circle*.

The 3 ages of man are school tablet, aspirin tablet, and stone tablet.—*Ry Employees' Jnl*.

Twenty-five to thirty are probably the most trying 10 yrs of a woman's life.—*Construction Digest*.

RAconteur: A person who has a good memory and hopes other people haven't.—*Best's Insurance News*.

collision, thar you is, but if you's in an explosion, whar is you?"—*Spread Sheet*.

Mr J ARTHUR RANK recently told American film producers that during the war his Pinewood studios made more money than any other studio in the world. "In fact," he added, "more than all the Hollywood studios put together."

He was not referring to films. Mr Rank's studio was taken over and used by the Mint—PETERBOROUGH, *London Daily Telegraph*. u

Two ritzy ladies met on Main St. "Hello," said the 1st, "you look nice and tanned. Just get back from Fla?"

"Yes," ans'd the 2nd, "and did we have a great time! For \$40 a day we stayed at the Roney Plasma."

"You mean Roney Plaza. Plasma is blood."

"Well," countered the 1st, "is \$40 a day barley water?"—*Army & Navy Jnl*.

20 INING THE MAGAZINES

Future Fun Is Largely Fictional
—PRISCILLA WAYNE, *Your Life*, 10-'47.

All the people in our village long ago knew Sarah Thomas. She was the middle-aged, hard-working wife of Wm Thomas and all her life she had been looking forward to the fictional day, "When we build our new house."

By the utmost frugality, denying themselves even the most ordinary pleasures of life, Sarah and Wm had saved enough money to build their dream house. The plans were drawn and the contract let when Sarah took to her bed with a "summer cold." She was underweight, tired from working too hard and listless from having too little of interest in her drab life. But her faded eyes sparkled as she told visitors that the day she had longed and struggled for was close at hand—that new home. But Sarah never saw the day. She died of pneumonia and Wm brought to the new home a new wife.

Sarah's story taught me a lesson: *Dreams of future fun are largely fictional.*

How many people are like Sarah — always dreaming and planning for future happiness when present happiness is all around them.

"When we can afford it," the parents say, "we'll take a family trip"—too often they vision an expensive trip. The money never accumulates and opportunities slip by. But humble family trips could have been taken which would have been milestones of happy memory — a fishing trip, a camping expedition, a bicycle jaunt, family visits to historical shrines. The happiest of all the excursions my family ever enjoyed was a camping expedition on the banks of a picturesque creek not 10 mi. from our home door — it was a new and enchanting experience.

"If I had a couple of thousand dollars I'd get away from it all," I heard a sick man say. And I ans'd, "But you do have a couple of *hundred* and you can get away from it all by spending a mo or so in a cabin in the north woods, and you'll gain back your health and your zest for life in doing it."

The fun of the future is often fictional because it is often out of proportion to its real value. It isn't worth waiting for. A little fun, *right now*, is worth a great lot of fun that may never come.

" "

The Nat'l Debt—we are not bankrupt!—SAM SHULSKY, *Independent Woman*, 10-'47.

This country spent about 347 billions to fight and win World War II. A part of that huge bill was paid in cash, but 211 billions were left owing, bringing the total debt of our gov't to roughly 280 billions, largest debt in our history. Since V-J Day this has been reduced to 260 billions, still a staggering sum which must be paid by you and me and our children . . .

A few facts concerning America's war debt can go a long way toward dispelling the gloom that some people have wrapped around it.

In the 1st place, while the debt now stands at 260 billions—which, divided by about 140 million population, equals \$1,850 per man, woman and child—that does not mean \$1,850 for *every* man, woman and child. Our gov't's expenses, while borne by all our people, are allotted according to the principle of *ability to pay*. For example, the average annual wage in industry now stands at about \$2,500 a yr. The head of a family of 4 earning this salary will pay about \$100 a yr in taxes, of which only \$25 will represent his share of annual interest charges on the debt. Obviously, the load on

the wealthier family is heavier. If this same family were to lift its income to \$10,000 a yr, its share of the debt service would be \$400 . . .

This vast sum is a far different debt from the money we owe to the bank on our mortgage or to the finance co on the family car.

First of all, we and our gov't control the interest rate. Right now we're paying on the average a little less than 2%.

Secondly, our gov't never faces foreclosure. When any series of bonds comes due, Washington can borrow as much again and pay off the creditors. When times are hard Uncle Sam can go along just paying the debt to help things along. By paying us as individuals and borrowing from the banks instead, he can not only give us more money to spend, but create addit'l bank deposits as well, both means of accelerating productive activity.

When times are good and money is plentiful, he can increase taxes, siphon money out of circulation and retire some of the debt, meanwhile helping to keep our nat'l economy on an even keel and preventing runaway booms which end in crashes.

Five times in our history we have incurred heavy nat'l debt—each time to finance a war. This time, because of the global character of World War II, the debt has become larger—in dollars—than ever before. And yet, even tho it stands at 100 times the size of the Civil War debt, the money req'd to service it is only a third larger in terms of our nat'l income—our nat'l ability to handle the debt . . .

It'll take a lot of work and sweat to pay it off, but it certainly does not require blood and tears. There is no justification for the belief that our nat'l debt problem must destroy us. What's more, during the yrs we will be paying, it will serve as a constant warning that we must never again get careless about its role in world affairs.

But above all, there are a few plain facts to remember. America is a great nation. In terms of resources, capacity, industrial know-how it is the biggest nation on earth. That is why we can, and why we will, take care of the biggest debt on earth.

